

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 VO-03 SCA-01 SY-05 DHA-02 ORM-01

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INSE-00 FBIE-00 ARAE-00

(ISO) W

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P R 261700Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 510

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

SEC ARMY WASHDC

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2141

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, PQ, PN, JM, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIANS REPATRIATED FROM PANAMA AND JAMAICA

REF: A) PAUP 2031 (NOTAL) & PREVIOUS; B) STRASSER/VINCENT

TELCON AUG 22

1. NEWLY PROMOTED MAJOR EMMANUEL ORCEL ON AUG 25 TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE SPOKE OFFICIALLY FOR GOH IN GIVING EMBASSY HIS ASSURANCES THAT ALL 36 HAITIANS WHO RETURNED FROM PANAMA ON AUG 11 WERE RELEASED "WITHIN 48 HOURS". MOREOVER, ALL 11 HAITIANS WHO RETURNED FROM JAMAICA AUG 9 ALSO HAVE BEEN FREED. ORCEL SAID THAT GOH CONCLUDED THAT BOTH GROUPS WERE ESSENTIALLY THE DUPES OF LOCAL HAITIANS WHO ORGANIZED THE ILLEGAL DEPARTURES, AGAINST WHOM THE GOH WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL MEASURES. NONE OF THE ORGANIZERS APPEARED TO HAVE ANY LINKS WITH EITHER AMCITS OR HAITIANS RESIDENT IN THE U.S. HE SAID NEITHER GROUP OF RETURNEES INCLUDED POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, SIMPLY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT ABROAD.

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2. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED TO ORCEL THAT USG INTEREST IN SAFE

RETURN OF HAITIANS EXTENDED TO ALL FUTURE DEPORTEES FROM US TERRITORY, NOTABLY THE MANY ECONOMIC REFUGEES WHOSE REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM HAD BEEN REFUSED. THEY EMPHASIZED THE INTEREST OF THE US CONGRESS IN SUCH MATTERS. ORCEL ASSURED EMBOFFS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS US CONCERN, AND PROMISED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH EMBASSY TO HELP ASSURE SATISFACTORY PROCESSING OF ALL FUTURE HAITIAN DEPORTEES FROM US OR US-CONTROLLED TERRITORY.

3. COMMENT: WE CAN ONLY ATTRIBUTE ORCEL'S LONG DELAY IN CONFIRMING THE RELEASE OF THE RETURNED WOULD-BE REFUGEES TO HIS NORMAL CAUTION IN SAYING NOTHING FOR THE RECORD WITHOUT HIS SUPERIORS' FULL APPROVAL, WHICH IN THIS INSTANCE HE MADE A POINT OF SAYING HE OBTAINED.

4. THE CREDITABILITY OF THE GOH PRIVATE ASSURANCES CONCERNING THE 36 RETURNEES' FATE (PAUP 1847) WAS BOLSTERED BY THE LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT ACCORDED THEM. ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE AUG 13-14 MATIN AND AUG 14-15 NOUVELLISTE (BEING POUCHED AUG 26) STRESSED PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S SOLICITUDE FOR THE RETURNEES' WELFARE, AND POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE THEIR VIOLATION OF IMMIGRATION LAWS DUVALIER CONSIDERED THE RETURNEES TO BE NAIVE VICTIMS OF UNCONSCIONABLE PROMOTERS OF A "VERITABLE (SLAVE) TRAFFIC IN HAITIANS". THE PRESS CALLED FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST SUCH PROMOTERS, AND ADDED THAT US CONSULAR OFFICERS HAD OBSERVED THE ARRIVAL AND PROCESSING OF THE RETURNEES AT THE AIRPORT.

5. GIVEN THE PROMPTNESS AND EAGERNESS WITH WHICH THE GOH SOUGHT OUR ASSISTANCE (USDAO PAUP 141822Z JULY 75 CITED PANAMA 4250) FOR THE 36 HAITIANS STRANDED IN THE CANAL ZONE, AND ITS QUICK RETURN OF THE 11 HAITIANS IN JAMAICA, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT DUVALIER WAS GENUINELY DISTRESSED AS WELL AS EMBARRASSED BY BOTH GROUPS OF REFUGEES, AND ANGERED BY FELLOW CITIZENS WHO EXPLOIT THE MISERY AND NAIVETE OF ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS. FOR AS LONG AS THIS ATMOSPHERE PREVAILS, THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT THE GOH MAY TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO STEM THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL EMIGRATION.
THOMSON

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